

SENATE BILL 1850

By Bailey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 53;
Title 63 and Title 68, relative to review of
prescribers associated with overdoses of
prescription opiates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 53, Chapter 10, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

(a) On receiving a notification from the office of vital records, pursuant to Section 2 of this act, concerning the death of an individual from a possible overdose of prescription opiates, the committee shall investigate and, if possible, identify from the database those prescribers who may be associated with the individual's death. The committee shall refer the names of these prescribers to the appropriate health-related board under title 63 in order for the appropriate board to investigate to determine whether:

(1) A prescriber acted in good faith and in accordance with applicable community standards of practice; and

(2) A pattern of over-prescribing exists that warrants corrective action.

(b) The committee shall comply with applicable confidentiality and privacy standards set by state and federal law. All data, reports, and correspondence under this section shall be confidential and shall not be considered to be a public record for purposes of title 10, chapter 7.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-3-502, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection to be appropriately designated:

() For any certificate of death that identifies an individual's cause of death as an overdose of opiates for which a prescription is required under state or federal law, the office of vital records shall provide a copy of that death certificate to the controlled substance database advisory committee, created under title 53, chapter 10, part 3, for investigation pursuant to Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.